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 CAR SHOW CALENDAR D2  
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# Dominant 'dozer

Among world's largest in its prime, 1972 Allis-Chalmers earth mover transported to new home in Adams Run

BY JIM PARKER

Frank Burke first spotted the oversized bulldozer in Allendale and realized he was sighting a rare machine, a collector's item.

The Walterboro land manager would track the massive road implement to White Plains, Georgia, meeting with the owner — architect and historian Roy Ashley. Three years ago, he would buy the mammoth piece of road equipment.



**JIM PARKER**

It wasn't until this week, however, that he took part in transporting the orangish-yellow 1972 Allis-Chalmers HD-41 to a permanent place for viewing and light activity. Moving crews with trucking executive Pat Barber's Superior Transportation Co. in North Charleston spent close to six hours securing the bulldozer

to a 40-wheeler tractor-trailer and then hauling the 45-year-old off-road vehicle from Colleton County to Aching Acres farm in Adams Run. The trip followed interstate highways most of the way due to the tractor's humongous size and weight (It was positioned so no axle supported more than 20,000 pounds). The property off S.C. Highway 174 is leased to the Lowcountry Antique Tractor & Engine Association.

That's history," mused Burke, an association member, after he and workmen carefully backed the bulldozer off the transport truck. He piloted the machine about a mile before parking the behemoth device next to much smaller tractors, grades and 'dozers. The model is expected to be on display today at the association's fall tractor show and pull.

In time, Burke would learn the machine weighs 65 tons as shipped without fuel and harbors a more than 1,710 cubic inch Cummins V-12 engine generating 524 horsepower. The heavy equipment, road work and farm tractor maker in the early 1970s moved to compete with Caterpillar in the earth moving field, and through 1977 manufactured a few hundred units a year of what was arguably the world's



PHOTOS BY LEROY BURNELL/STAFF

Crews with Superior Transportation lay down plywood to roll the earth-moving Allis-Chalmers bulldozer into place to drive it to its destination.

largest bulldozer then. While dwarfed by today's earth movers with tires taller than people, the bulldozer commands enough attention even today for Minnesota farm show organizers in 2013 to suspend a full-sized tractor on the cab's roof and posting the machine's balancing-act drive on YouTube. Burke believes the HD-41 is uncommon today: He knows of just two or three other surviving models.

The collector over a few years would piece together additional information about the bulldozer, including how it wound up in Allendale. The Allis-Chalmers machine had been stationed for a time at the Savannah River nuclear site, which was a few miles away. The equipment almost landed in the junk heap to be sold as scrap: Burke bought the HD-41 just in time. After buying the bulldozer, Burke peeled off paint to uncover Miller Brothers of Cincinnati as an owner. He called the company and learned the gigantic road grader been employed in the construction of an interstate highway near Cincinnati. Burke would later discover that the

sprawling bulldozer after its interstate grading



The gigantic machine was hauled from Walterboro to Adams Run for a truck and tractor show and its permanent digs.

work would be sent to a strip mining operation, an industrial stripper tool attached to the frame. The mining scraper is no longer attached, having been removed when the monumental machine was set to be scrapped.

Just months ago, Burke memorialized prior



Bulldozer owner Frank Burke of Walterboro named the Allis-Chalmers HD-41 after the previous caretaker. Just above the marker are the foot pedals.

owner Ashley's long-time stewardship of the earth-moving machine; The Georgia collector died a few years ago. On the side of the bulldozer, Burke fashioned a sign, Big Roy.

On Oct. 23 when the transport team moved the monster bulldozer, a small crowd gathered at the drop-off site, some taking photos on their smart phones. A filled 300-gallon fuel tank and 84 total gallons of fluid for the cooling system, transmission and engine lubrication maxed out the weight at 129,000 pounds.

Among other size figures, the Allis-Chalmers HD-41 lists:

- Height — 10 feet, 4 inches with smoke stacks.
- Length — 20 feet, 2 inches.
- Width — 11 feet, 1-and-a-half inches.
- Number of track links — 39.
- Maximum speed — 7.4 mph.
- Engine type — Turbocharged.

"That's something," exclaimed Ron Barton, the association's president, as Burke maneuvered the machine, which has three forward and three reverse gears, down a dirt road to the farm's parking area.

"You don't see one of those every day," Barton said.

For more information and photos, go to [www.postandcourier.com/automotive](http://www.postandcourier.com/automotive).

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